

MINUTES OF SRC COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 12th JANUARY AT 6:30 PM
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM, MCINTYRE BUILDING

Present: As per sederunt

Apologies: K Powell, J Benson, J Mac Sweeney, P Kariappa, H Todd, B Rooney, L King, A Zahid, F Gewirtz O'Reilly, F Nokhbatolfoghahai

Attending: B Hay, K Fraser, D Borland.

1: Minute of previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting on the 8th December were approved with no amendments.

2: Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3: Learning and Teaching Hub

Professor Frank Coton; Vice Principal of Academic & Educational Innovation gave a short presentation on the progress of the Learning & Teaching hub followed by a short Q&A session with council members.

4: Council Reports

4.1 Ameer Ibrahim – President

4.1.1 Degree course transfer fees: A meeting had taken place with the chief advisory committee regarding student transfers between courses. University policy has been updated and students will no longer incur penalties of up to 60% of the course fee for transferring course.

4.1.2 Rector Nominations: Rectorial elections are coming up in February and a hustings date has been anticipated for the middle of Feb with nominations closing on the 24th January.

L McDougall asked if there would be more advertising for the rectorial elections as there is little sign that elections are impending.

A Ibrahim advised that posters and other advertising will be upcoming and will be circulated to students in the run up to the elections and the nomination process.

4.1.3 Learning and teaching hub: The development committee is now a “delivery team” after the business plan was passed both at Senate and City of Glasgow Council's planning committee membership has yet to be finalised.

4.1.4 Student retention subgroup: E Ross and A Ibrahim have been part of this University working group which has a remit to reduce student drop out rates.

4.1.5 Professor’s square renaming: A number of buildings in the square will be renamed to honour people of note from the university's history. This is a continuation of the previous campaign to improve diversity and name more buildings after women and other marginalised groups in academia.

4.1.6 Teaching excellence framework: Tier 4 student visas: Currently there is an ongoing consultation by the UK Home office which is considering a potential link between TEF results and capacity to enrol future Tier 4 students.

4.1.7 Campus development plan: The business case for Phase 1 of the Campus Development plan has been approved by Senate at their December meeting. This is part of the overall Estates Development capital plan. The other development phases are likely to come before court later in the year.

4.1.8 MaRIO & Student Fees: A meeting is still due to take place with the University to discuss the SRCs concerns about any future proposals to charge RUK students for the full 4 years of their degree (as opposed to the current 3 year policy). Concerns were raised that this issues seems like a low priority for the University following repeated postponements of the meeting by the Director of MARIO.

Q- T Ramdani asked if there been any updates on school overcrowding?

A Ibrahim- No update at this time. Preventing overcrowding is an aim in the Estates Development capital plan, but nothing else further at this time to address short term issues.

4.2 Kate Powell – VP Education

Apologies submitted, written report circulated amongst council members.

4.3 Erin Ross – VP Student Support

Q - X Weiss asked if there had been any updates on the safety issues regarding Kelvin Way. E Ross responded that as of yet there were no concrete answers on addressing the safety issues on Kelvin way. She would again raise concerns with the Head of University security and continue working with the SRC Advice Centre team to put pressure on Glasgow City Council to upgrade the street and make it safer.

4.4 Mhairi Harris – VP Student Activities

4.4.1 Refreshers week: There is a number of events taking place as students return from the winter break. Council members were asked to help advertise them and raises awareness of events amongst their constituencies.

4.4.2 VCS awards: Council members were urged to nominate worthy volunteers and clubs, and help raise awareness of the awards. There are seven categories, five are for SRC-affiliated societies with two open to any club at the UofG with nominations closing on the 29th Jan.

M Harris advised council that preparations for both International week and Volunteering week were going well and details of events and other relevant information like how to get involved would be circulated to council members. She also informed council that there would be further sexual violence awareness workshops taking place, with the next being on the 13th January at 2pm in the Williams Room.

4.5 Other reports submitted

4.5.1 L McDougall

Report noted

4.5.2 C Holdsworth advised SRC council that his recent divestment environment report has been taken for consideration by the University of Durham.

4.5.3 T Ramdani

Q- X Weiss – Regarding the GAP working group. Would it be better to target students in High school before the apply to Uni?

T Ramdani responded that the problem is two fold that students need to be given in encouragement both in schools and university and supported in their choices when making applications.

E Ross added that she would be sitting on the GAP working group along with T Ramdani and that achieving better gender parity across subjects is a priority to better improve diversity and support on campus. She would keep council informed on the groups progress.

4.5.4 D Beck informed council that the LGBT History month organising meeting took place on the 11th Jan. Preparation for events over the month is now underway and council members were asked to help spread publicity.

4.5.5 J Mccahill
Report noted

4.5.6 A Brown
Report noted

4.5.7 S Mclean
Report noted

5: AOCB

5.1 SRC Student Engagement Coordinator: D Borland reminded council members that an email has been sent out to all SRC academic representatives to their council accounts after the December forum looking for them to get in contact with him.

5.2 International Week & International Symposium: T Ha informed council that International week would start on the Monday the 23rd of January with a with the International Symposium kicking off the week and a range of events including Burns Supper, Pub Quiz and a Burns Ceilidh. Council members were encouraged to get involved with the events and help with any publicity that may need circulated.

M Shah reminded council that a panel on Islamophobia: The post Brexit effect will place on the 1st Feb in room 201.

L Bergin updated council on the matter of gender neutral toilets as there will be provision in the Maths & Stats building going forward.

6: Date of next meeting

2nd February, 6:00pm Williams Room

